

GIRLS ABOUT SNAPE (G.A.S.)

Report to Snape Parish Council May 2026

G.A.S. continues to have a lively membership of over 40 women, most of whom live in Snape but some of whom live in the neighbouring villages of Aldeburgh, Benhall, Friston, Yoxford and Leiston.

G.A.S. is organised by a small team (GAS BOARD!) but is helped by many members in the running of meetings, walks and the book group.

The **monthly meetings**, which take place on the second Tuesday of each month, take place in the Village Hall. Usually there is a speaker followed by refreshments and a chance to catch up with each other. Several of our meetings are **OPEN meetings** and posters, blogs and emails invite all to attend. The **G.A.S.** annual quiz night continues to be extremely popular and competitive!

Members often bring along friends and neighbours to meetings. Visitors to the village frequently attend having seen the posters in the village or notices on the Snape Village Website. OPEN meetings are well attended by Snape residents. Last year the ever popular Janet Dann spent an evening entertaining with her poetry and readings and she never fails to amuse. We ended last year with the return of Luci Skinner formerly of Wootton Plants with another much appreciated talk on the history of English beds and borders and then on the practicalities of creating and maintaining them.

This year Snape Resident Jane Simpson came back to speak to many women members and non-members on the topic of Pelvic Floor Health, and this proved an enormous success once again. We began the year with Richard Negus talking to us and informing us and entertaining us with the history of hedges and hedgerows and about the labour intensive nature of his work. Many bought his book Words from the Hedge.

SERV- SC - Service by Emergency Response Volunteers Suffolk & Cambridge – Blood Runners, spoke to us in February 2025 about the amazing service they provide, and they continued to be our supported Charity for the year. We raised well over £500 over the year which excludes whatever had been accumulated in their collection box .

This year's Charity is St Elizabeth's Hospice. On 10th March Kelly Nekrews came to speak to us about the work and plans of the hospice and it became clear to all of us how much the fundraising matters to them. So far we have raised £529 for the Charity.

The **monthly walking group** continues to be very popular and walks usually offer the opportunity for car lifts, shortened versions of the walk and opportunity to just come to the lunch which rounds off each walk. The numbers attending are between 8 – 14 women.

The **Book Group** is allied to **G.A.S.** and we advertise the Book of the month in **our monthly newsletter** which is emailed to members.

In August a trip to the **Summer theatre** in Aldeburgh is organised and proves to be very popular, perhaps because of Pizza at Prezzo's and cocktails prior to the performance or the ice creams in the interval!

On 9 September 2026 we will be travelling to Sandringham House and Gardens as GAS members, villagers and Aldeburgh Gardening Group members. We look forward to the day and note that there are still a few places remaining on the 30-seater coach. See Jo Roger if you wish to join the trip.

We continue to encourage new members and advertise via EBB & FLOW, Snape Village Website, Facebook, posters and word of mouth.

Our current **G.A.S. Board** consists of the following women all of whom, like all women, can turn their hand to anything and several things at once! But specifically:

Julia Scott Douglas – Ebb & Flow, Summer Trip organiser, Talks organiser

Jackie Whitfield – Treasurer, membership

Linda Wilkerson – Assistant treasurer, refreshments

Jacqui Woods – New members, Walk leader, **G.A.S.** contact

Colette Kearns – Refreshments, meet and greet

Karen Hudson – Secretary

Jo Roger – Publicity, Walk Organiser

Additionally:

Walk Leaders

Erica Wren, Grainne Drummond, Jacqui Wood, Jo Roger

Book group

Jill Hills who sadly died earlier this year, ran the book group for many years and will be greatly missed. GAS member, Doris King, is assisting in the running of the book group.

Jo Roger 10 May 2026

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